

***Remarks***

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-5 are pending in the application, with 1 being the independent claim. The claims have been amended to bring them into conformity with U.S. claim drafting conventions. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

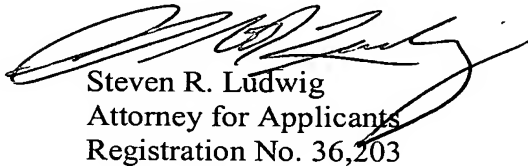
Support for the amendment to the claims is found, *inter alia*, in the original claims as filed.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

  
Steven R. Ludwig  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 36,203

Date: April 11, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600  
518124\_1.DOC